Alberta Economic Development

Facts on Alberta

February 2001

Alberta
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

103-04240/

FACTS ON ALBERTA

For more information, contact:

Alberta Economic Development
Policy and Economic Analysis Division
4th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 – 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 4L6
Telephone: (780) 427-0760 Telefax: (780) 422-0061
Website: http://www.alberta-canada.com/

Note: Every attempt was made to use the most verifiable, up-to-date facts. However, as new statistics become available over time, the specific information presented, while still representing a good overall picture, will become less accurate.

Alberta

POPULATION:	3.0 million
AREA:	Over 661,000 km^2
MAJOR CITIES:	***Edmonton metropolitan area*** - population 944, 200 (2000) ***Calgary metropolitan area*** - population 953, 000 (2000)
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:	$115, 417 million (1999)
REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH:	Forecast at 6.5% for 2000 • 1999: 3.6% • 1998: 2.4% • 1997: 8.4% • 1996: 2.1%
ECONOMIC BASE:	***Traditional*** • Oil and Gas • Petro-Chemicals • Agricultural Services • Food and Beverage Processing • Tourism ***Emerging*** • Telecommunications/Wireless Equipment • Biotechnology • Software Development • Electronics & Microelectronics
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT:	$31.3 billion (1999)
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:	5% (2000)
GOVERNMENT:	The Alberta Government's strategy combines natural advantages with a positive business climate that encourages investment and growth. This includes: • a low tax regime; • streamlined regulations; • a balanced provincial budget; and, • a modern infrastructure of transportation, utilities, education and health.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW ***1***

COSTS ADVANTAGE ***3***

TAXATION - CORPORATE ***6***

REAL ESTATE ***8***

- Commercial & Industrial 8
- Residential 10

LABOUR FORCE ***11***

- Productivity 11
- Employment Figures 12
- Unionization 13
- Labour Costs 13
- Employment Standards 15

PERSONAL TAXATION ***16***

TRANSPORTATION – TRUCKING, RAIL & AIR ***18***

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION ***20***

- University of Alberta 21
- The University of Calgary 22
- The University of Lethbridge 23
- Athabasca University 23
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) 24
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) 24

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE ***25***

- Alberta Research Council (ARC) 25
- Telecommunications Research Labs (TRLabs) 26
- Netera Alliance Inc 26
- Maci 27
- Alberta SuperNet 27
- The Food Processing Development Centre 28
- Research & Development Parks 29
- Research & Development Tax Credits 30

QUALITY OF LIFE **31**

- Nature & Tourism 31
- Social and Cultural Activities 32
- Sports & Fitness 33
- Educational Opportunities 34
- Safe Environment 34

OVERVIEW

BUSINESS ADVANTAGE

From a business perspective, Alberta has consistently ranked ahead of most other jurisdictions in both Canada and the United States. Overall, Alberta's open and positive business environment consists of:

- a low overall tax regime
- streamlined regulations to improve the competitiveness of Alberta companies
- **no provincial sales tax** - the only province in Canada without one
- a modern infrastructure of transportation, utilities, education and health
- a highly skilled and productive workforce
- an abundance of natural resources

As a result, Alberta has had the fastest growing economy in Canada over the past five years, averaging 4.6% in real growth. Highlighting Alberta's success in the past year are:

- over $38 billion in international exports of goods and services (1999)
- manufacturing shipments of almost $35.4 billion (1999)
- approximately $59 billion in major capital projects in the works or recently completed (2000)
- creation of 35,000 new jobs (2000)

Alberta's communities offer a diversity of resources and expertise to meet your business needs. To find out more, visit the ***Alberta First.Com*** *website (www.albertafirst.com).*

LIFESTYLE ADVANTAGE

Canada has consistently been rated by the United Nations as one of the top countries in which to live. Similarly, Alberta is known for its unique lifestyle and high standard of living. In particular, Alberta offers:

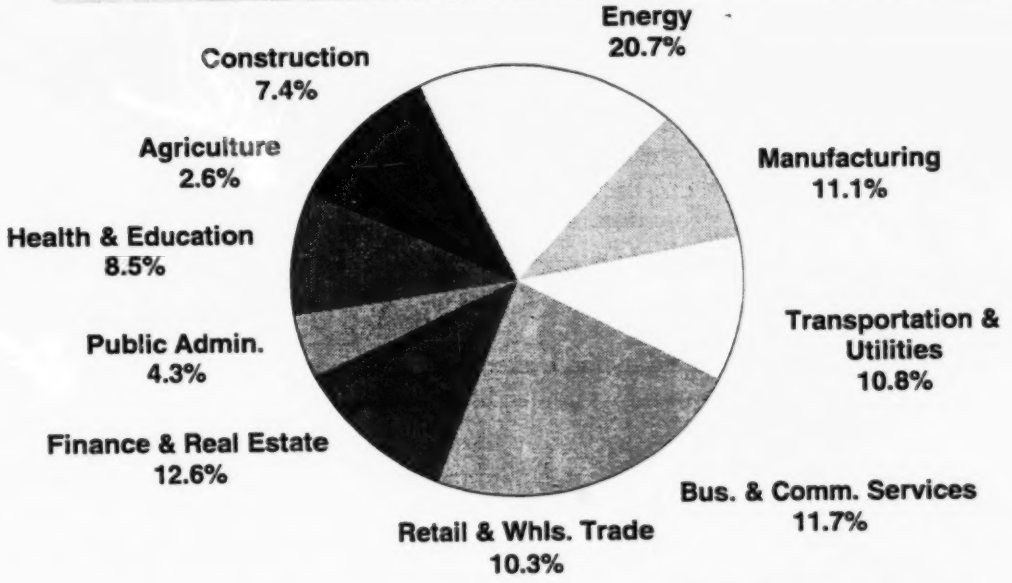
- spectacular natural beauty and a clean environment
- hundreds of cultural festivals, sporting events, fairs and rodeos
- cultural and recreation facilities that include international calibre theatres, music halls, and sporting venues
- major cities and national parks (Jasper and Banff) that are recognized as international tourism destinations
- safe, modern cities and charming small towns and villages

Province	Population ('000)	Unemployment Rate, 1999	GDP, 1999 (billions)	Real Economic Growth (at 1992 prices)			
				1994-1999	2000	2001 (f)	2002 (f)
British Columbia	4,072	8.3 %	$ 118,783	1.9 %	3.0 %	2.7 %	3.4 %
Alberta	3,011	5.7 %	116,990	3.2 %	6.1 %	4.1 %	3.2 %
Saskatchewan	1,023	6.1 %	30,143	2.0 %	3.6 %	2.4 %	2.7 %
Manitoba	1,149	5.6 %	30,995	2.1 %	2.6 %	3.0 %	2.6 %
Ontario	11,725	6.3 %	396,775	3.3 %	4.6 %	3.7 %	3.4 %
Quebec	7,380	9.3 %	204,062	2.4 %	4.2 %	3.2 %	3.1 %
New Brunswick	757	10.2 %	18,390	2.1 %	5.4 %	1.0 %	2.4 %
Nova Scotia	943	9.6 %	22,407	2.3 %	1.9 %	2.3 %	2.2 %
Prince Edward Island	139	14.4 %	2,994	2.1 %	3.0 %	2.9 %	2.8 %
Newfoundland	538	16.9 %	12,110	1.8 %	5.3 %	4.7 %	6.0 %
Canada	30,838	7.6 %	957,911	2.7 %	4.3 %	3.4 %	3.2 %

Source: Statistics Canada; Conference Board of Canada, forecasts as of December 2000

Structure of the Alberta Economy

Percentage Distribution of GDP - 1999



Source: Alberta Treasury, 2000

Total GDP at Market Prices: $115.4 Billion

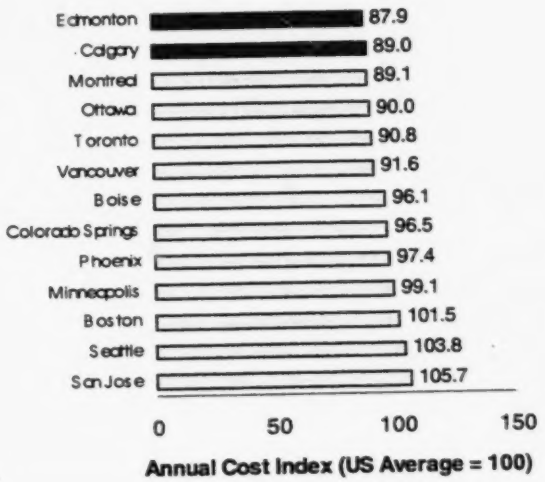
COST ADVANTAGE

Through a combination of low taxes, a skilled workforce and a well-established infrastructure, Alberta provides an advantage across all industry sectors.

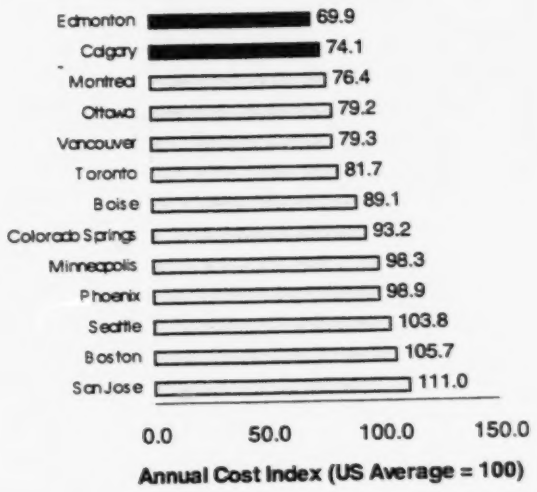
The charts below compare the overall cost of doing business in Alberta to four Canadian and seven U.S. locations. Overall costs are expressed as an index based on an average US cost of 100. Comparisons were made for nine different industries using a custom cost model developed by KPMG Consulting LP. Industries examined included: food processing, call centres, electronics, medical devices, metal fabrication, pharmaceuticals, plastics, telecommunication, and software production.

These charts demonstrate the cost advantage Alberta has over other jurisdictions.

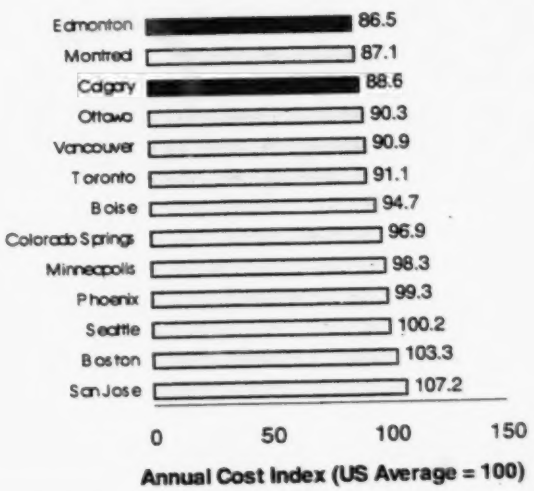
Food Processing Facility



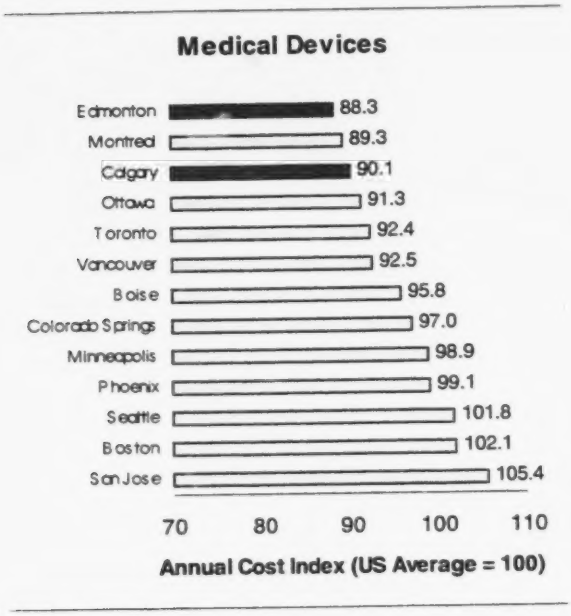
Call Centre Facility Costs

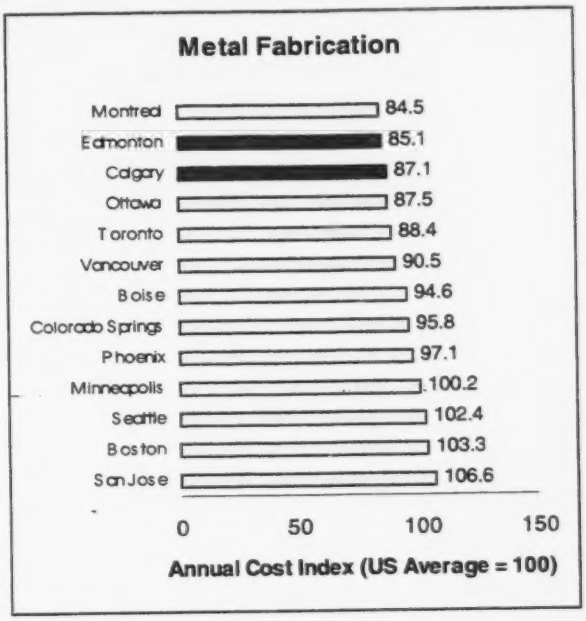


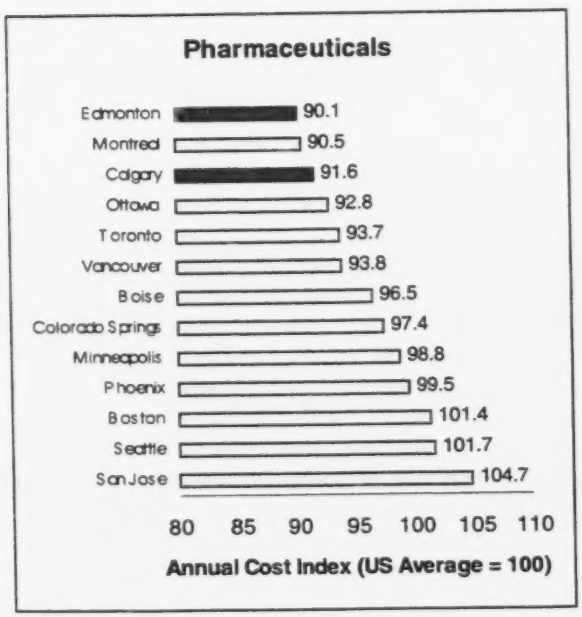
Electronics Manufacturing

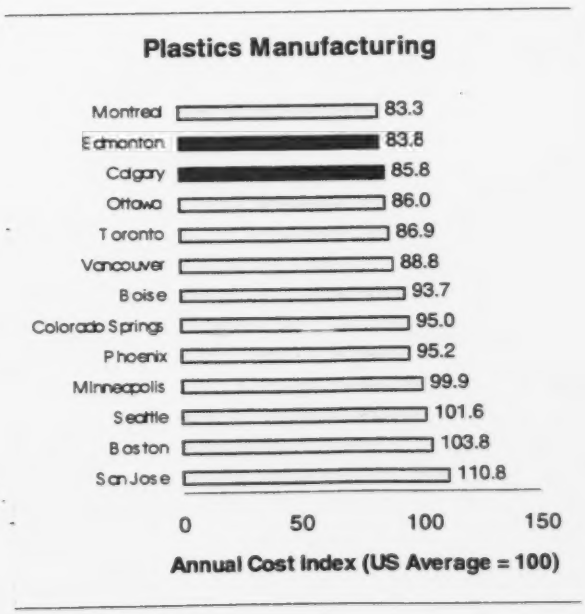


Source: KPMG Consulting LP, 2000



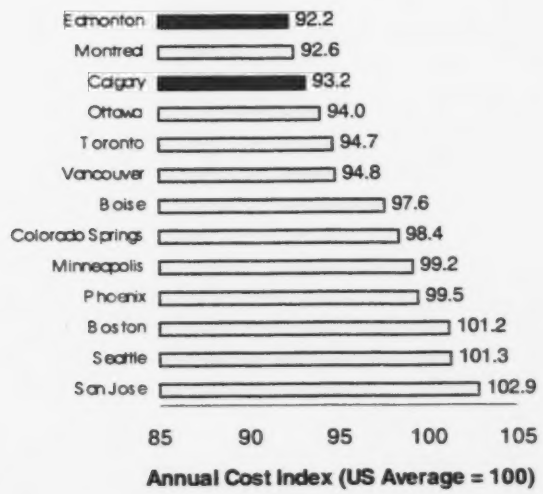




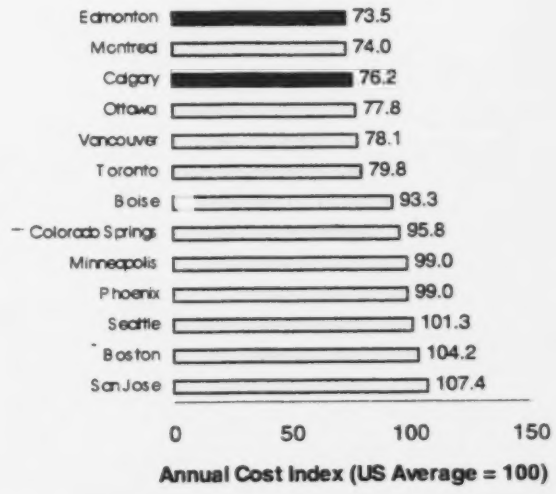


Source: KPMG Consulting LP, 2000

Telecom Equipment



Software - Advanced



Source: KPMG Consulting LP, 2000

TAXATION - CORPORATE

Alberta has one of the lowest overall tax systems in Canada. Contributing to this are:

- **no provincial sales tax**
- no provincial general capital tax or payroll taxes
- no machinery & equipment tax

Alberta is reducing its general corporate income tax rate from the current level of 15.5% to 8% by 2004. With the changes to the provincial and federal tax regimes, Alberta will have one of the most competitive business tax environments in North America. The combined federal/provincial corporate income tax rate will be less than 30% by 2004.

Provincial Corporate Tax Rates

Corporate Taxes (%)	B.C.	AB	Sask	Man	Ont	Que	N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	Nfld
Small Business	4.75	6.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	9.04	4.50	5.0	7.5	5.0
Mfg. & Processing	16.5	14.5	10/17	17.0	12.5	9.04	17.0	16.0	7.5	5.0
General	16.5	15.5	17.0	17.0	14.5	9.04	17.0	16.0	16.0	14.0
Capital Tax:										
General	0.3	-	0.6	0.3/0.5	0.3	0.64	0.3	0.25	-	-
Financial Institutions	3.0	.7/1	3.25	3.0	0.2/0.99	1.55	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	0/2.15[a]	1.95	4.26	-	-	-	2.0[b]

Consumption Taxes	B.C.	AB	Sask	Man	Ont	Que	N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	Nfld
Retail Sales Tax (%)	7.0	-	6.0	7.0	8.0	7.5[c]	8.0[c]	8.0[c]	10.0	8.0[c]
Fuel Taxes (¢/liter):										
Gasoline	11.0	9.0	15.0	11.5	14.7	15.2	10.7	13.5	13.0	16.5
Highway diesel fuel	11.5	9.0	15.0	10.9	14.3	20.2	13.7	15.4	13.5	16.5
Aviation fuel	5.0/2.0[d]	1.5	3.5	3.2	2.7	3.0	2.5	0.9	0.7	0.7

Source: Alberta Economic Development, rates known as of May 2000

a General payroll tax does not apply to firms with payroll less than or equal to $1 million.
b Payroll tax exemption increased from $120,000 to $150,000 for the 1999 taxation year.
c Partially harmonized with the federal goods & services tax (GST).
d Tax rate is zero for international cargo flights and cargo payload on international passenger aircraft.

Federal Tax Rates

	CANADA (2000)	*UNITED STATES (2000)*
Corporate Income Tax:		
General	29.12%	35.0%
Manufacturing	22.12%	35.0%
Small Business	13.12%	33.4%
Capital Tax	0.225% (on excess of $10 million)	--
Sales Tax	7.0% [a]	--
Social Security[b]	3.9%	7.65%

Note: amounts in currency of country.

a This is a refundable value-added tax, i.e. there is no net cost to a manufacturer once input tax credits (refunds) have been claimed.

b Canada Pension Plan, Medicare

The Government of Canada is reducing its general corporate income tax rate from 28% to 21% by 2004.

Municipal Taxation

The assessment of property is based on either market value or a regulated value determined by valuation standards set out in the Municipal Government Act and Regulations. There are two levies against assessable property in Alberta: the municipal levy, used to fund municipal services, and the Alberta School Foundation Fund, collected on behalf of the provincial government to help fund education.

All businesses in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton are assessed for business taxation. Business tax is calculated based on the average rental value of the premises occupied by the business, multiplied by the tax rate as set by City Council each year.

	Calgary	Edmonton
Business Property Tax[a]	3.92 %	2.50 %
Business Tax[b]	9.90%	6.29%

a based on assessed land and building value

b based on estimated rental value

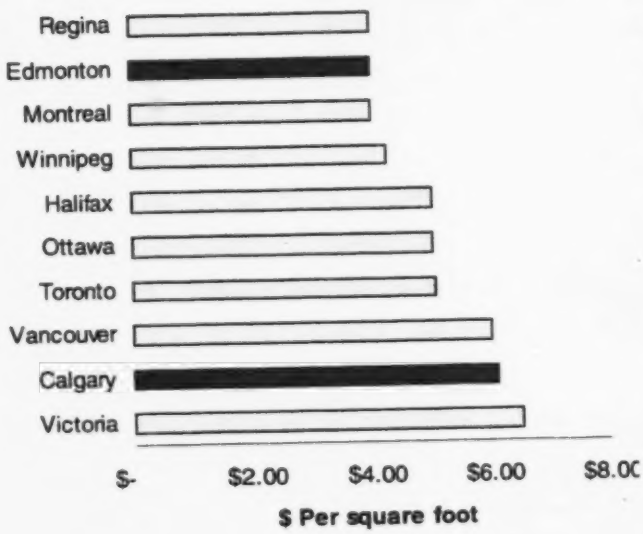
Source: Cities of Edmonton and Calgary; January 2000

REAL ESTATE

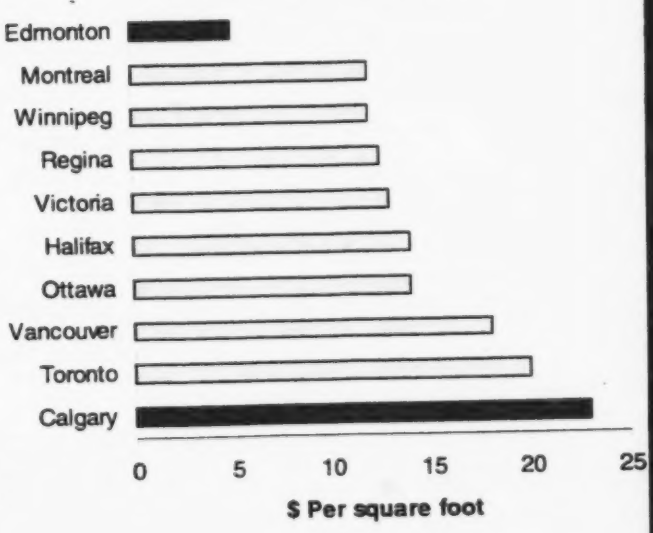
Alberta offers an abundance of well serviced, competitively priced industrial sites that are suited to a variety of uses. Edmonton has industrial square footage rates that are among the lowest in Canada for major metropolitan areas. Smaller municipalities, such as Lethbridge and Red Deer, also have numerous facilities at rates lower than those in the larger cities.

Calgary is Canada's second largest head office city, while Edmonton is the location of most provincial and federal government offices. Office occupancy costs have consistently been among the lowest in Canada. The industrial parks in Alberta also offer a variety of parcel sizes and choices.

Industrial Lease Rates



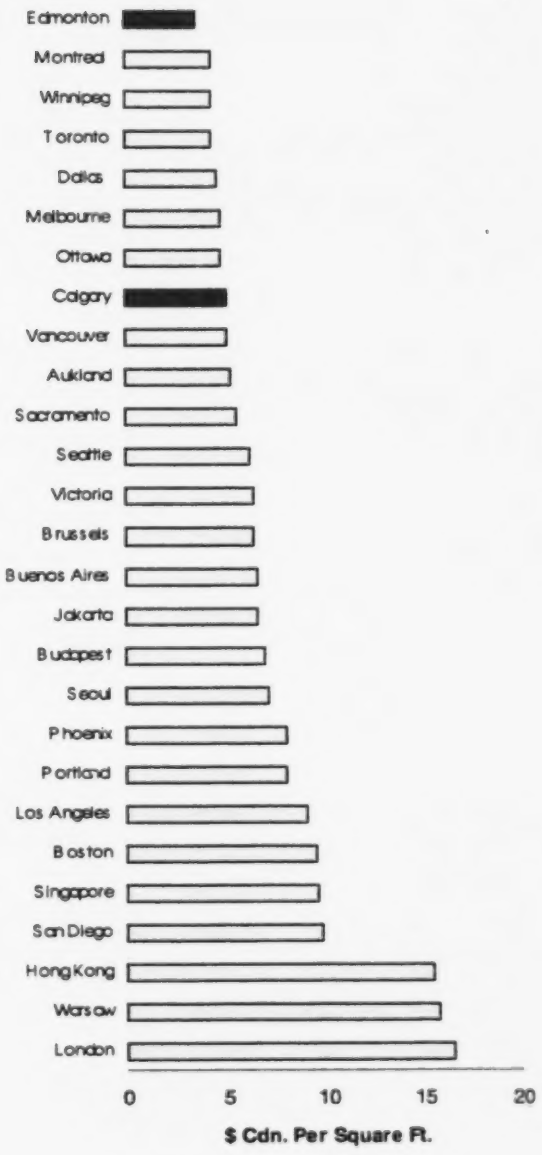
Office Net Effective Lease Rates - Downtown Class A, 1999



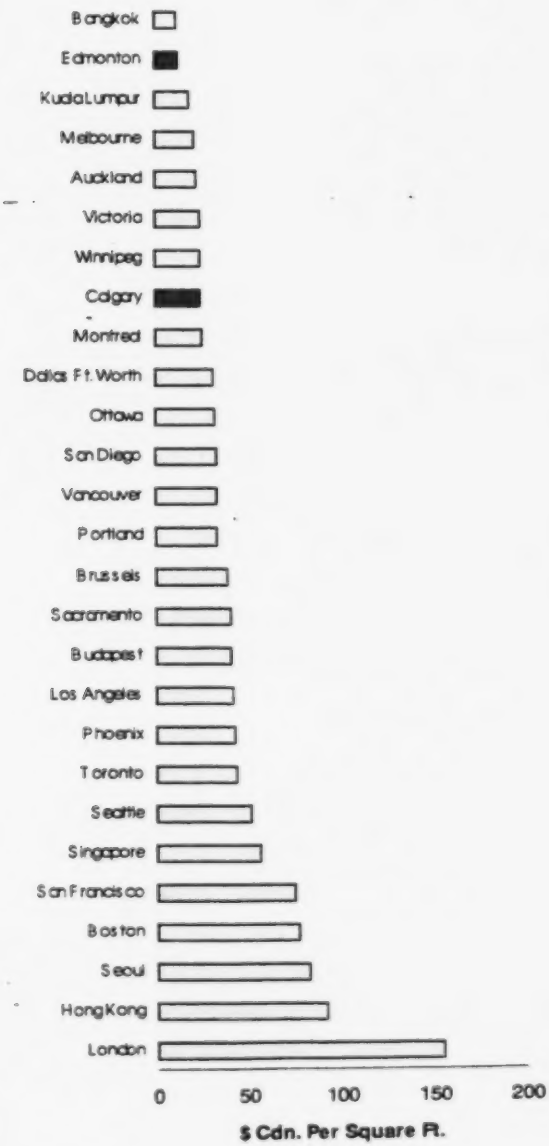
Source: Colliers, Canadian Real Estate Review 1999-2000

World Real Estate Costs- 1999

Industrial Costs



Office Costs



1 Annual occupancy costs includes base rent, operating expenses & taxes less an amount equal to the amortized values of landlord concessions of free rent and/or cash contributions. Costs based on a 5 year lease of 10,000 square feet in a prime downtown location.

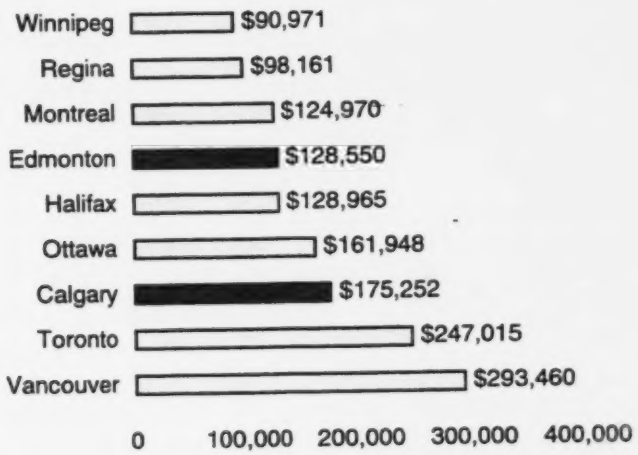
2 Annual occupancy costs based on triple net rents on a five-year lease of 20,000 to 40,000 square feet of warehouse space.

Source: Colliers International, Canadian Real Estate Review 1999-00

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

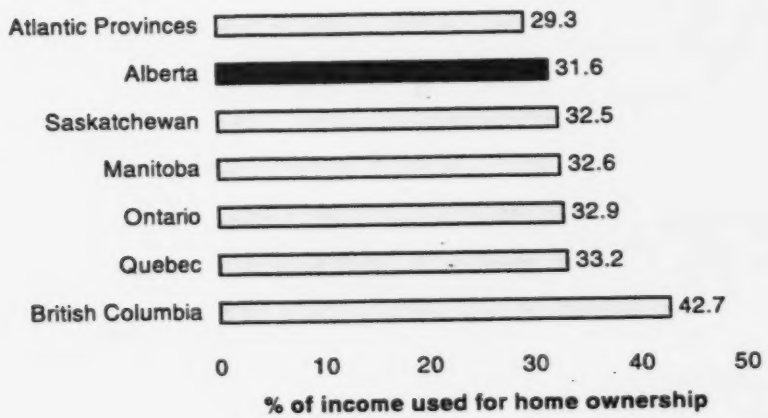
Housing affordability in Alberta exceeds that of other provinces. For the approximate price of a townhouse of 1,000 ft^2 in metro Toronto or Vancouver, you can get a house of 2,500 ft^2 on a full lot in Alberta.

Average Housing Prices



Source: Canadian Real Estate Association, May 2000

Housing Affordibility



Source: Royal Bank, February 2001

LABOUR FORCE

Alberta's labour force consists of almost 1.7 million well-educated personnel. In 1999, 49% of the labour force reported holding a university degree, or post-secondary diploma or certificate. In addition, Alberta has the highest workforce participation rate at 72%, compared to the national average of 66%. Other general facts are that:

- Alberta has the **highest worker productivity and productivity growth rate** in Canada.
- Over the past 10 years, Alberta's number of person-days lost due to labour disputes has ranked among the lowest in Canada.
- In 1999, Alberta had the 2nd lowest person-days lost due to labour disputes, at 1.23 days per 10,000 worked, relative to the Canadian average of 7.84.
- Alberta has the highest number of engineers per capita, almost 2 for every 100 Albertans in the labour force.

Educational Attainment of Labor Force, 1999 Annual Averages (%)

Education Level	BC	AB	SK	MA	ON	QU	NB	NS	PE	NFL
0-8	2.3	2.7	5.2	4.9	3.5	6.9	5.9	4.3	6.7	7
Some high school	13	15.8	18.2	18.4	14.2	13.7	15.5	16.5	20.7	15.8
High school graduate	23.4	21.7	22.5	21	22	17.5	23.7	16.3	18.6	16.9
Some post-secondary certificate or diploma	11.2	10.7	10.6	9.6	9.7	7.8	6.7	8.6	7.7	8.1
University Degree	18.6	16.2	13.6	16.1	20.5	18.3	14.9	16.7	13.8	12.8

Source: Alberta Learning, 2000

Productivity, Provinces

Productivity (GDP/Capita) 1999	Province	Productivity Growth Rate 1989-98
$39, 537	Alberta	3.82%
$34,451	Ontario	2.56%
$29,489	British Columbia	-0.78%
$29,379	Saskatchewan	2.03%
$27,117	Manitoba	0.65%
$27,767	Quebec	2.34%
$24,390	New Brunswick	2.39%
$23,862	Nova Scotia	3.41%
$21,696	Prince Edward Island	4.65%
$22,384	Newfoundland	2.03%

Centre for the Study of Living Standards, 2000

* Manufacturing output per hour of labor

LABOUR FORCE

Alberta's labour force consists of almost 1.7 million well-educated personnel. In 1999, 49% of the labour force reported holding a university degree, or post-secondary diploma or certificate. In addition, Alberta has the highest workforce participation rate at 72%, compared to the national average of 66%. Other general facts are that:

- Alberta has the **highest worker productivity and productivity growth rate** in Canada.
- Over the past 10 years, Alberta's number of person-days lost due to labour disputes has ranked among the lowest in Canada.
- In 1999, Alberta had the 2nd lowest person-days lost due to labour disputes, at 1.23 days per 10,000 worked, relative to the Canadian average of 7.84.
- Alberta has the highest number of engineers per capita, almost 2 for every 100 Albertans in the labour force.

Educational Attainment of Labor Force, 1999 Annual Averages (%)

Education Level	BC	AB	SK	MA	ON	QU	NB	NS	PE	NFL
0-8	2.3	2.7	5.2	4.9	3.5	6.9	5.9	4.3	6.7	7
Some high school	13	15.8	18.2	18.4	14.2	13.7	15.5	16.5	20.7	15.8
High school graduate	23.4	21.7	22.5	21	22	17.5	23.7	16.3	18.6	16.9
Some post-secondary certificate or diploma	11.2	10.7	10.6	9.6	9.7	7.8	6.7	8.6	7.7	8.1
University Degree	18.6	16.2	13.6	16.1	20.5	18.3	14.9	16.7	13.8	12.8

Source: Alberta Learning, 2000

Productivity, Provinces

Productivity (GDP/Capita) 1999	Province	Productivity Growth Rate 1989-98
$39, 537	Alberta	3.82%
$34,451	Ontario	2.56%
$29,489	British Columbia	-0.78%
$29,379	Saskatchewan	2.03%
$27,117	Manitoba	0.65%
$27,767	Quebec	2.34%
$24,390	New Brunswick	2.39%
$23,862	Nova Scotia	3.41%
$21,696	Prince Edward Island	4.65%
$22,384	Newfoundland	2.03%

Centre for the Study of Living Standards, 2000

* Manufacturing output per hour of labor

Employed by Industry - Alberta

Sector	'000
Agriculture	69.3
Forestry & Logging with Support Activities	5.3
Mining & Oil & Gas Extraction	77.4
Utilities	12.5
Construction	128.3
Manufacturing	140.1
Wholesale Trade	65.3
Retail Trade	187.3
Transportation & Warehousing	97.0
Finance Insurance Real Estate & Leasing	79.0
Professional Scientific & Technical Services	108.3
Management Administrative & Other Support	53.1
Educational Services	99.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	148.7
Information Culture & Recreation	66.2
Accommodation & Food Services	115
Other Services	76.9
Public Administration	61.9
All Industries	**1,588.2**

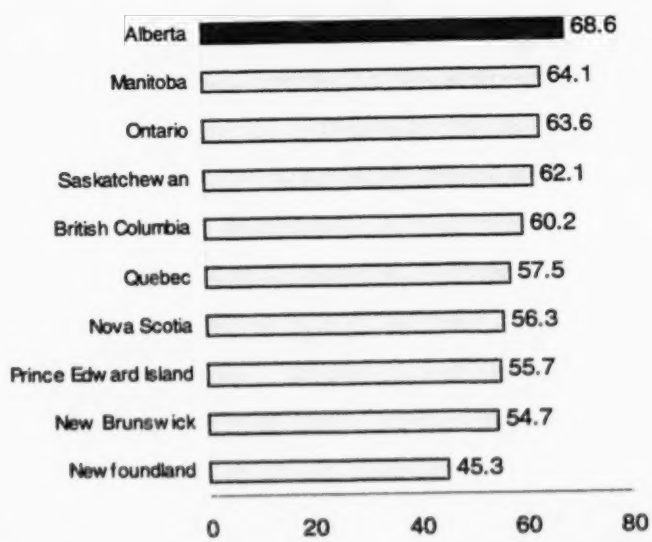
Source: Statistics Canada, 1999 Labor Force Survey

Employed by Occupation - Alberta

Sector	'000
Management Occupations	150.5
Business Finance & Administrative Occupations	281.9
Natural & Applied Sciences & Related Occupations	103.8
Health Occupations	73.4
Social Science Education Gov't & Religion	96.7
Art Culture Recreation & Sport	34.8
Sales & Service Occupations	399.2
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators & Related	267.9
Occupations Unique to Primary Industry	106.3
Occupations Unique to Processing Manufacturing & Utilities	73.9
All Occupations	**1,588.2**

Source: Statistics Canada, 1999 Labor Force Survey

Employment Rate



Alberta has the highest percentage of employed people of any province. Alberta's average employment increased by about 35,000 in 2000. (The Employment Rate is a measure of the number of people employed relative to the size of the labour force.)

Source: Statistics Canada, 1999 Labor Force Survey

The unionization rate in the private sector is 13.6%. Alberta's overall unionization is estimated at 25.3%, among the lowest in Canada. Public sector union membership (public administration, education and health) accounts for the bulk of this rate.

Estimated Union Coverage, 1999 Annual Averages

Sector	Total Employees ('000)	Unionized Employees ('000)	Percent Union Members
Accommodation Food & Other Services	94.4	2.3	2.4%
Agriculture & Other Primary	71.4	6.0	8.4%
Construction	80.6	18.8	23.3%
Finance & Business Services	66.9	3.2	4.8%
Manufacturing	127.3	26.2	20.6%
Trade	206.9	25.0	12.1%
Transportation, Communications & Storage	72.8	30.1	41.3%
Utilities	10.0	5.8	58.0%
Private Sector Rate	991.5	135.2	13.6%
Education	99.5	68.7	69.0%
Health & Social Services	129.6	64.1	49.5%
Public Administration	65.8	43.4	66.0%
Public Sector Rate	258.1	180.9	70.1%

Alberta has one of the lowest unionization rates in Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1999 Labour Force Survey

LABOUR COSTS

Occupation	*Average Hourly Wage ($ Cdn)
Manager - Financial	29.40
Manager - Manufacturing	23.50
Supervisor - General Office	16.80
Bookkeeper	14.75
Oil & Gas Drilling Labourer	19.75
Heavy Equipment Operator	17.90
Electrician	14.90
Welder	21.00
Carpenter	16.40
Secretary	15.15
Retail Sales Person	10.05
Civil Engineer	23.70

* Based on three years experience.; averages of Edmonton/ Calgary, except Oil & Gas Drilling Laborer (Edmonton)
Source: Statistics Canada, 1999 Alberta Wage Survey

Technicians/Technologists (1999)	Average Salary ($ Cdn)
Electrical	35,112
Electronics	32,385
Computer (hardware/networking)	34,462
Computer (software/applications)	32,000
Manufacturing	33,453
Instrumentation	40,331

* Based on less than 5 years experience

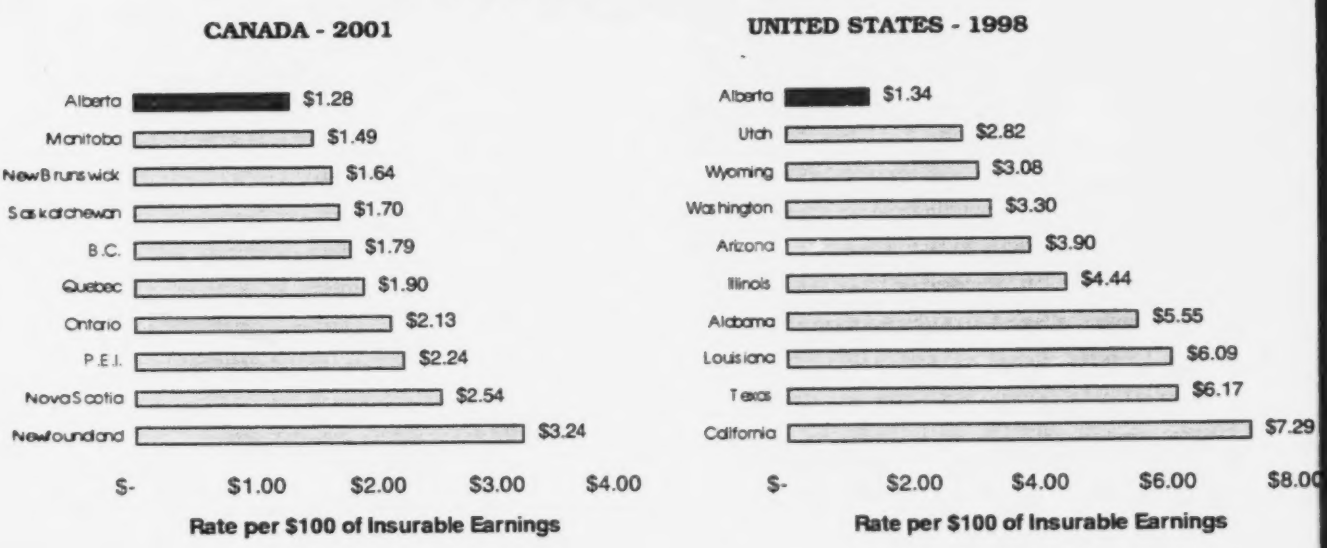
Source: Alberta Society of Engineering Technologists, 2000

Starting Salaries ($Cdn)

Information Technology Professionals	Canada	United States*
Product Manager, Software Development	$ 67,000 - 98,000	$ 101,600 - 142,500
Manager, Systems & Programming	69,000 - 95,000	104,600 - 133,900
Systems Analyst	50,000 - 67,500	75,750 - 97,500
Programmer Analyst	46,000 - 59,000	67,100 - 90,000
Programmer	35,000 - 45,000	57,000 - 75,750

* based on $1 US = $1.50 Cdn.
Source: RHI Consulting – 2000 Career Guide

Workers' Compensation Premiums
(Average Premium Rates, $Cdn.)



Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada
$1 US = $1.50 Cdn.

Minimum Wage

BC	AB	SK	MAN	ONT	QUE	NB	NS	PEI	NFLD
$7.60	$5.90	$6.00	$6.00	$6.85	$6.90	$5.75	$5.70	$5.80	$5.50

Source: Human Resources Development Canada, 2000

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

The majority of employees in Alberta are covered by the *Employment Standards Code*, a Statute of the Province of Alberta. Groups exempt from the code include police officers and certain provincial employees who are regulated through other statutes. The code creates minimum standards in areas such as:

1. Hours of work and overtime pay

- In general, the maximum workday is 12 hours long.
- An employer must allow employees at least one day of rest each week. The maximum number of consecutive days worked may not exceed 24, at which point employees must receive four consecutive days off.
- All hours over eight in a day or 44 in a week (whichever is greater), are considered overtime. Overtime is paid out at time-and-a-half. Employers and employees may also create their own written overtime agreement.

2. Vacation and vacation pay

- Entitlement of 2 weeks after 12 months of employment.
- Entitlement of 3 weeks after 5 years of employment.

3. Minimum wage rates

- $5.90 per hour

4. General holidays and general holiday pay

In Alberta, the following are general holidays: New Year's Day; Alberta Family Day; Good Friday; Victoria Day; Canada Day; Labour Day; Thanksgiving Day; Remembrance Day; Christmas Day; and any other day designated by the employer.

5. Notice for termination of employment

- 3 months to under 2 years = 1 week notice
- 2 to under 4 years = 2 weeks notice
- 4 to under 6 years = 4 weeks notice
- 6 to under 8 years = 5 weeks notice
- 8 to under 10 years = 6 weeks notice
- after 10 years = 8 weeks notice

6. Parental benefits

- A birth mother will be able to take up to 52 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave from employment made up of 15 weeks maternity leave and 37 weeks of parental leave.
- Fathers and/or adoptive parents are also eligible for 37 weeks of unpaid, job-protected parental leave. Adoptive parents can take parental leave when they adopt a child under the age of 18.
- If both parents are employees, the 37 weeks of parental leave may be taken entirely by one of the parents or can be shared between the mother and father.

For more information: Alberta Labor Employment Standards
www.gov.ab.ca/lab/what/emplstd.html
(780) 427-3731

PERSONAL TAXATION

Personal Taxes (%)	BC	AB	Sask	Ma	Ont	Que	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld
Basic Rate[a]	49.5	44.0	48.0	47.0	38.5	n/a[a]	60.0	57.5	58.5	62.0
General Surtax	30/45	-	10/25	2.0	20/56	n/a[a]	8.0	10.0	10.0	6/16
Flat Tax	-	0.5	2.0	2.0	-	n/a[a]	-	-	-	-

Consumption Taxes	BC	AB	Sask	Ma	Ont	Que	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld
Retail Sales Tax (%)	7.0	-	6.0	7.0	8.0	7.50[b]	8.0[b]	8.0[b]	10.0	8.0[b]
Gasoline (¢/liter)	11.0	9.0	15.0	11.5	14.7	15.2	10.7	13.5	13.0	16.5
Tobacco Tax ($/carton)	22.0	14.0	17.2	16.0	5.3	8.6	8.30	9.64	13.25	22.00
Accommodation Tax (%)	8.0	5.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	7.5	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0

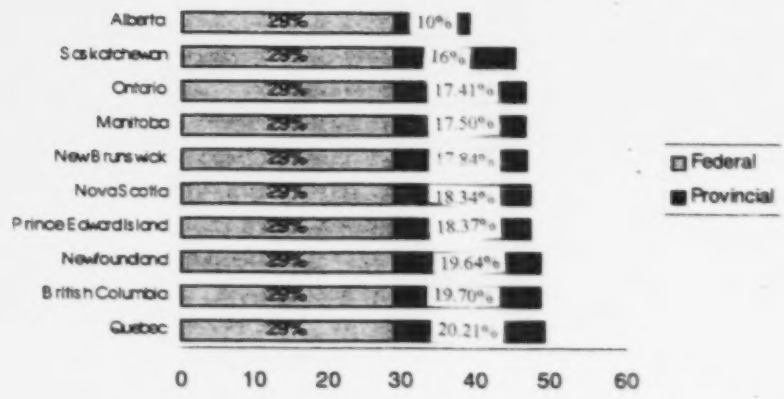
a The basic rate is a percentage of basic federal tax. Quebec's personal income tax system is not directly comparable
b Partially harmonized with Federal GST.

Source: Alberta Economic Development, as of May 2000

As of January 1, 2001, Alberta has switched to a new single rate of tax on personal income of 10%. Personal exemptions have nearly doubled and spousal exemptions have more than doubled. These changes, combined with other recent tax changes, will result in a 23% tax cut and annual savings of $1.5 billion to Albertans.

It has been demonstrated that the total tax load in Alberta is lower than in any other province. After factoring municipal and provincial taxes, health care premiums and user fees, an Albertan's tax load is **25.5%** less than that of the average Canadian.

Top Marginal Effective Personal Income Tax Rates
January 1, 2001



Source: Alberta Treasury, January 2001

Disposable Income per Capita	
Alberta	$20,987
Ontario	$20,968
Canada	$19,369
British Columbia	$18,771
Manitoba	$18,218
Quebec	$17,781
Nova Scotia	$17,482
New Brunswick	$17,237
Saskatchewan	$16,924
Prince Edward Island	$16,094
Newfoundland	$15,619

Source: Statistics Canada, 1999

PERSONAL TAXATION

Personal Taxes (%)	BC	AB	Sask	Ma	Ont	Que	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld
Basic Rate[a]	49.5	44.0	48.0	47.0	38.5	n/a[a]	60.0	57.5	58.5	62.0
General Surtax	30/45	-	10/25	2.0	20/56	n/a[a]	8.0	10.0	10.0	6/16
Flat Tax	-	0.5	2.0	2.0	-	n/a[a]	-	-	-	-

Consumption Taxes	BC	AB	Sask	Ma	Ont	Que	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld
Retail Sales Tax (%)	7.0	-	6.0	7.0	8.0	7.50[b]	8.0[b]	8.0[b]	10.0	8.0[b]
Gasoline (¢/liter)	11.0	9.0	15.0	11.5	14.7	15.2	10.7	13.5	13.0	16.5
Tobacco Tax ($/carton)	22.0	14.0	17.2	16.0	5.3	8.6	8.30	9.64	13.25	22.00
Accommodation Tax (%)	8.0	5.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	7.5	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0

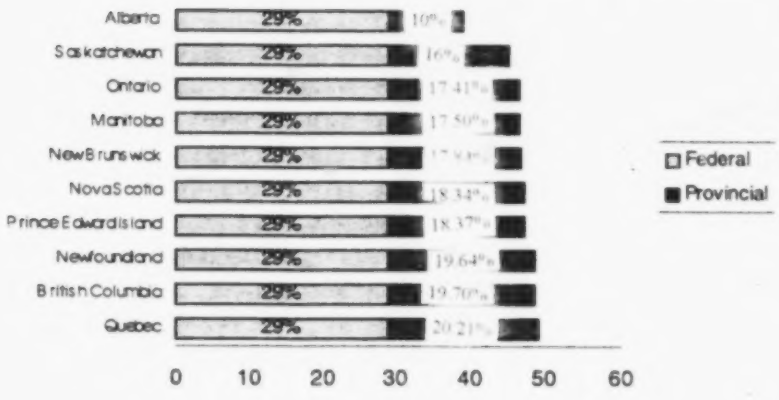
a The basic rate is a percentage of basic federal tax. Quebec's personal income tax system is not directly comparable
b Partially harmonized with Federal GST.

Source: Alberta Economic Development, as of May 2000

As of January 1, 2001, Alberta has switched to a new single rate of tax on personal income of 10%. Personal exemptions have nearly doubled and spousal exemptions have more than doubled. These changes, combined with other recent tax changes, will result in a 23% tax cut and annual savings of $1.5 billion to Albertans.

It has been demonstrated that the total tax load in Alberta is lower than in any other province. After factoring municipal and provincial taxes, health care premiums and user fees, an Albertan's tax load is **25.5%** less than that of the average Canadian.

Top Marginal Effective Personal Income Tax Rates
January 1, 2001



Source: Alberta Treasury, January 2001

Disposable Income per Capita	
Alberta	$20,987
Ontario	$20,968
Canada	$19,369
British Columbia	$18,771
Manitoba	$18,218
Quebec	$17,781
Nova Scotia	$17,482
New Brunswick	$17,237
Saskatchewan	$16,924
Prince Edward Island	$16,094
Newfoundland	$15,619

Source: Statistics Canada, 1999

INTERPROVINCIAL TAX AND HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PREMIUM COMPARISON, 2001 (PRELIMINARY)

Alberta's overall personal taxes are the lowest in Canada. As the following charts demonstrate, families pay less tax in Alberta than in any other province. Based on a two-income family earning $60,000, Albertans pay $3,685 less in taxes than residents of Quebec and $1,090 less than residents of Ontario.

Employment Income of $30,000 - One Income Family (Two Children)

	BC	AB	Sask.	Man	Ont.	Que.	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld.
Provincial Income Tax	395	(701)	881	580	(279)	(734)	1,287	1,120	1,121	1,450
Provincial Sales Tax	700	-	485	776	987	1,111	979	1,007	1,235	1,025
Fuel Tax	330	270	450	345	441	456	321	405	390	495
Tobacco Tax	550	350	430	430	133	215	208	241	331	550
Health Care Premium	648	612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	218	286	688	-	-	-	167
Total Provincial Tax	**2,623**	**531**	**2,246**	**2,349**	**1,568**	**1,736**	**2,795**	**2,773**	**3,077**	**3,687**

Employment Income of $60,000 - Two Income Family (Two Children)

	BC	AB	Sask.	Man	Ont.	Que.	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld.
Provincial Income Tax	2,768	2,277	3,429	3,207	1,908	3,499	3,395	3,426	3,333	3,669
Provincial Sales Tax	1046	-	720	1,147	1,459	1,556	1,477	1,509	1,855	1,545
Fuel Tax	495	405	675	518	662	684	482	608	585	743
Tobacco Tax	550	350	430	430	133	215	208	241	331	550
Health Care Premium	648	612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	436	572	1,375	-	-	-	333
Total Provincial Tax	**5,507**	**3,644**	**5,254**	**5,738**	**4,734**	**7,329**	**5,562**	**5,784**	**6,104**	**6,840**

Employment Income of $100,000 - Two Income Family (Two Children)

	BC	AB	Sask	Man	Ont	Que	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld
Provincial Income Tax	6,548	5,705	7,895	8,532	5,006	10,590	8,081	8,154	7,710	8,780
Provincial Sales Tax	1,608	-	1,096	1,717	2,240	2,269	2,239	2,287	2,824	2,331
Fuel Tax	495	405	675	518	662	684	482	608	585	743
Tobacco Tax	550	350	430	430	133	215	208	241	331	550
Health Care Premium	648	612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	726	953	2,292	-	-	-	555
Total Provincial Tax	**9,849**	**7,072**	**10,096**	**11,923**	**8,994**	**16,050**	**11,010**	**11,290**	**11,450**	**12,959**

- Calculations are based on tax parameters known at December 1, 2000.
- In provinces that impose payroll taxes, 75% is assumed to be borne by employees and 25% by employers. The same 75/25 split is assumed for health care insurance premiums.
- Fuel tax is based on estimated consumption of 3,000 liters per year for one-income families and 4,500 liters for two-income families.
- Tobacco tax is based on estimated consumption of 100 packs per adult per year.
- For two income families, income is split 60/40 between the two spouses.
- Business bears between 25% and 60% of the provincial sales tax, dependent upon the provincial tax regime.
- RRSP/RPP contributions are included in the calculation of personal income tax.
- The children in each family are assumed to be 6 and 12 years old.

Source: Alberta Treasury, 2001

TRANSPORTATION

Alberta's transportation infrastructure plays a critical role in the province's economy. The province's strength as a major exporter of primary commodities and manufactured products to the global marketplace, is supported by a highly efficient and competitive transportation and logistics system.

Alberta's central location allows direct access to the fast-growing western Canadian market of over 9 million people. It also allows access to a total market of 120 million people residing within an 1,800-km radius (as far north as Alaska, as far south as Mexico, as far west as Los Angeles and as far east as the Mississippi) of the Alberta border. The off-shore markets are easily accessible thanks to an excellent rail transportation and intermodal system linking Alberta to the tidewater ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Montreal, Halifax, Seattle and Tacoma.

Distances to Major Markets (kilometers)

Canada	Edmonton	Calgary
Montreal	3,551	3,582
Regina	780	758
Saskatoon	523	610
Toronto	3,356	3,387
Vancouver	1,189	957
Winnipeg	1,295	1,326

United States	Edmonton	Calgary
Chicago	2,610	2,553
Dallas	3,175	2,991
Denver	2,045	1,765
Detroit	3,035	2,978
Los Angeles	2,745	2,460
Minneapolis	2,228	1,920
Portland	1,521	1,252
San Francisco	2,380	2,111
Seattle	1,298	1,067

Source: Household Goods Carrier's Bureau - Mileage Guide

RAILWAYS

Alberta is serviced by two transcontinental railway companies, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). Both companies provide highly efficient and competitive service in the movement of export commodities such as petrochemicals, forest products, grain, coal, fertilizers and sulphur to major ports, and throughout the United States and Mexico. A modern network of intermodal terminals is strategically located at Calgary, Edmonton,

Vancouver, Chicago, Toronto, and Montreal for movement of containerized cargo to the United States and international markets.

HIGHWAYS

Alberta has more than 28,000 km of paved roads and highways, which form an extensive network throughout the province. First class arterial roads and highways connect Alberta to the North American highway system. Primary highways in the province have good pavement conditions and support high load limits and truck dimensions. The province has the lowest highway fuel tax across Canada. Alberta is enhancing its North-South Trade Corridor that links the Alaska Highway to the north and the Canada America Export (CANAMEX) Trade Corridor at Coutts on the Montana border. CANAMEX follows Interstate 15 south through Idaho, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona and Mexico. Full implementation will lead to the harmonization of truck weights and dimensions and will facilitate the movement of higher payloads, increase efficiencies and reduce transportation costs.

AIR SERVICE

Two world-class airports, located at Calgary and Edmonton, service Alberta. The two airports are among the top ten largest airports in Canada, have 24-hour cargo services, modern cargo terminals and U.S. pre-clearance facility. They are used by major international airlines and provide direct passenger and cargo services to many North American and international destinations, and are also the major gateway to northern Canada.

Calgary International Airport, which serves as the hub for air traffic in the prairies, has the largest civil aviation runway in Canada, measuring 3,863 metres.

The Edmonton International Airport, which is strategically located, is Canada's most northerly major airport and has the second longest runway in Canada. The runways can accommodate any size aircraft. For example, the Antonov 124, the world's largest cargo aircraft, has used the airport on many occasions. The Edmonton International Airport is the only facility in Northwestern America that has an Animal Quarantine Station on site to serve customers transporting live cargo to and from transborder and international destinations.

Alberta has regional airports in Grande Prairie, Peace River, Fort McMurray, High Level, Red Deer, Lloydminster, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat.

For more information and up-to-date flight schedules:

CALGARY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
www.calgaryairport.com

EDMONTON AIRPORTS
www.edmontonairports.com

www.albertatrucking.com
www.aircanada.com
www.portvancouver.com
www.cpr.ca
www.cn.ca

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

One of Alberta's primary strengths is in its education system. Alberta's system consists of 26 institutions, including 4 universities, 2 technical institutes, 15 public colleges, 4 private accredited colleges and the Banff Centre. The combination of these facilities helps to provide one of the most highly educated workforces in North America.

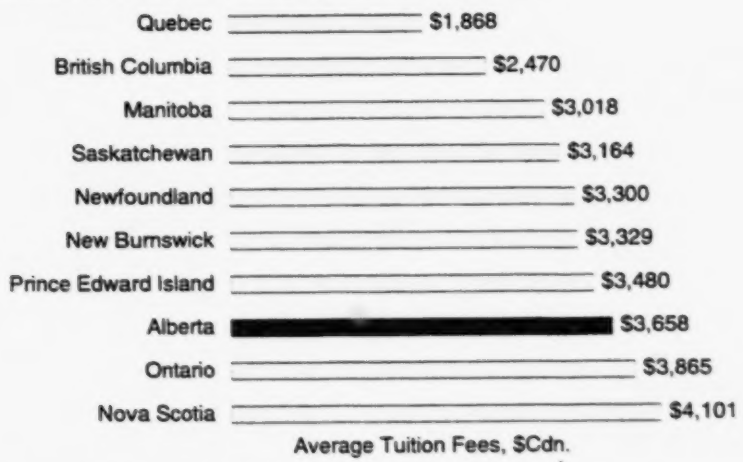
University Full-time Enrollment

University	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students	Total
University of Alberta	23,900	3,064	26,964
The University of Calgary	18,520	2,586	21,106
University of Lethbridge	5,775	234	6,009
Athabasca University*	17,555	1,478	19,033
TOTAL	**65,750**	**7,362**	**73,112**

* Athabasca University is a "distance education" institution

Source: University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge
Athabasca University

Average Tuition Fees, Undergraduate Students (Arts)



Source: Statistics Canada, 1999-00

University
of
Alberta

With almost 30,000 students, the University of Alberta (U of A), is Canada's second largest English-speaking university. The U of A offers 200 undergraduate programs and 170 graduate programs.

Full-time Enrollment by Program

Agriculture/Forestry/Home Economics	1,233
Arts	5,145
Business	1,741
Education	2,846
Engineering	2,863
Graduate Studies And Research	3,064
Law	487
Medicine And Oral Health Sciences	1,174
Native Studies	224
Nursing	815
Pharmacy And Pharmaceutical Sciences	418
Physical Education And Recreation	820
Rehabilitation Medicine	491
Saint-Jean	408
Science	5,175
Open Studies	60
Total Full-time Enrollment	**26,964**

Source: University of Alberta Fact Book, 1998-99

U of A ranked among the top five Canadian universities in 1998/99. Since 1988/89, U of A has received more than $1 billion from external sources for research. Its new target is to attain a cumulative total of $2 billion in external research funding by 2005. U of A has grown to be one of Canada's largest research-intensive universities, with external research funding in 1998/99 of more than $170 million. U of A also ranks as one of the top universities in North America for establishing spin-off companies. Since 1993, 31 active, new spin-off companies have been created, employing more than 600 people and attracting more than $140 million in investment to Alberta. In total, the university's 38 active spin-off companies have created more than 1,100 direct jobs and almost 2, 200 indirect jobs in the community. U of A is especially proud to be hosting international visitors at the University of Alberta athlete's village for the 2001 World Championships in Athletics.

Additional Information: Office of the Registrar
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2M7

Phone: (780) 492-3113
Website: www.ualberta.ca

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The University of Calgary (U of C) is a dynamic research and teaching university of growing international stature. With 16 faculties and over 60 academic departments and major program areas, U of C programs lead to undergraduate, graduate, doctorate and professional degrees in a number of traditional and interdisciplinary fields.

Full-time Enrollment by Program

Education	893
Engineering	2,063
Fine Arts	492
General Studies	6,325
Humanities	566
Kinesiology	549
Law	208
Management	1,493
Medicine	641
Nursing	415
Science	1,663
Social Sciences	2,302
Social Work	313
Joint Faculty	545
Graduate Students	2,586
Total Full-time Enrollment	**21, 106**

Source: The University of Calgary Fact Book, 1999-2000

(Note: The total includes the number enrolled in a non-degree program)

With research funding exceeding $64 million per year, The University of Calgary is recognized nationally and internationally as a leading research university. Virtually all faculty members engage in research, scholarship and creative activity ranging from the structure of chromosomes to the origins of the universe, from ancient Greek poetry to modern art, and from critical care nursing to biomedical engineering. The U of C is the most research-intensive university in Alberta and among the top ten in Canada.

More than 22,000 students come from across Canada and 80 other countries. The university offers significant support to undergraduate students: more than 4,000 awards totaling $5 million in scholarships and awards are given each year.

Additional Information: Registrar's Office
The University of Calgary
2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2N 1N4

Phone: (403) 220-6645
Website: www.ucalgary.ca

The University of Lethbridge

With close to 6,000 full-time students, the University of Lethbridge (U of L) offers full degree programs in arts and science, management, health sciences and fine arts. The university also offers professional transfer programs in majors such as engineering, law, medicine and journalism.

The U of L is one of the few Canadian universities committed to a liberal arts undergraduate education. The Centre for the Arts at the U of L was designed to bring together the teaching faculties of art, music and theatre/drama, and to provide teaching spaces tailored to their needs.

Additional Information: The Registrar's Office
The University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive W.
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4

Phone: (403) 320-5700
Website: www.uleth.ca

Athabasca University

Athabasca University is internationally recognized as a leader in open and distance education, offering a high-quality university education to almost 20,000 students. This rate is rising over 20% per year. They are dedicated to the removal of barriers that traditionally restrict access to and success in university-level studies, and to increasing equality of educational opportunity for all adult Canadians, regardless of their geographical location or prior academic credentials.

Athabasca University offers full bachelor degree programs in arts, general studies, science, administrative studies, commerce and nursing. Masters programs are offered in business administration (MBA) and distance education (MDE). A number of certificate programs are also offered.

Athabasca University's programs are predominately home study, in which all materials and a collect call link with a tutor are included in the fees. Seminar and teleconference delivery modes are also provided, and several programs are offered with computer mediated communications (CMC) support, including both the MBA and MDE.

Additional Information: Public Affairs
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A3
Phone: 1-800-788-9041
Website: www.athabascau.ca

THE NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) ranks as one of Canada's finest and largest technical training institutes. With more than 14,000 full-time and apprenticeship students, and 40,000 continuing education registrations, it is Alberta's third largest post-secondary educational institution.

NAIT is dedicated to offering quality career education. NAIT programs have two main objectives:

- meeting the skilled workforce demands of business and industry
- helping students fulfill their personal, social and career aspirations

NAIT's mandate is to offer an array of career programming in apprenticeship, certificate, diploma, and applied degree formats within a service area that encompasses primarily central and northern Alberta, and to complement that programming role with capacities in international development and education and applied research/product development.

Many of NAIT's programs have transfer credit potential, which enables graduates to obtain advanced credit should they decide to pursue their studies at other post-secondary institutions.

Additional Information: Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
11762 – 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2R1

Phone: (780)471-7400
Website: www.nait.ab.ca

Building Careers
Building Business

The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) is located in Calgary and is home to 10,906 full-time students. There are over 100 programs that provide training in business, health sciences, communications, engineering technologies, hospitality, and transport and facility operations. SAIT offers one-year certificate programs, two-year diploma programs, four-year applied degree programs, three and four-year journeyman programs and custom designed programs ranging from a few hours to four years. SAIT has a graduate employment rate of 97% due to its high-tech labs, facilities, and hands-on learning.

Additional Information: Southern Alberta Institute of Alberta
1301 – 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0L4

Phone: (403) 284-SAIT (7248)
Website: www.sait.ab.ca

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Research and development plays an important role in Alberta's economy. Alberta's research infrastructure consists of a strong network of public, private and educational organizations. The industry/government/education collaborations have created some leading partnerships that include the Alberta Research Council, TRLabs, Netera Alliance, and the Food Processing Development Centre.

ALBERTA RESEARCH COUNCIL

Alberta Research Council Inc. (ARC) develops and commercialises technologies to give customers a competitive advantage. The corporation performs applied research and development on a contract or fee basis, and co-ventures with others to develop new technologies, deriving a return on investment from the commercialisation of new products and processes. ARC also conducts applied research for the public good and to support provincial science and technology needs and strategies.

ARC was founded in 1921 and operated as a provincial corporation under the Alberta Research Act until April 1, 1999, when it was incorporated as a not-for-profit business under the Business Corporations Act. ARC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Alberta Science and Research Authority (ASRA).

ARC employs approximately 500 people, operating out of four sites in Alberta – Edmonton, Calgary, Devon, and Vegreville – and works with more than 750 customers and partners each year. Customers range from small start-up firms to large multinational corporations and government departments and agencies.

ARC bridges the gap between basic research and market development, by providing a full spectrum of R&D and advisory services. The corporation is widely recognized for its research capability in key market sectors: agriculture, biotechnology, energy, environment, forestry, health and manufacturing.

Corporate Offices:
250 Karl Clark Road
Edmonton, AB
T6N 1E4

Key phone numbers:

Main Switchboard: 780-450-5111
Technology Commercialization Office: 780-450-5211
Corporate Relations: 780-450-5147
Web site: www.arc.ab.ca

TR*Labs*

TR*Labs* (Telecommunications Research Laboratories) is the largest not-for-profit information and communications research consortium in Canada. It was established in 1986, as an applied research consortium based on industry, university and government collaboration focused on training top-notch talent to meet the demands of the growing ICT (information and communications technology) industry.

With headquarters in Edmonton, it is funded by the governments of Canada, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, by major sponsorships from the universities of Alberta, Calgary, Manitoba, Regina and Saskatchewan, and by a diverse mix of large and small ICT companies.

TR*Labs* operates a network of research laboratories in Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg, and is closely affiliated with NewMic in British Columbia. Over 200 highly skilled and motivated personnel work at TR*Labs*, consisting of staff researchers, professionals seconded from industry, professors, graduate and undergraduate students, and technical and administrative staff. Its research program is focused on five strategic areas: network systems, photonics, wireless communications, network access and data networking.

TR*Labs* has been successful in attracting top undergraduate and graduate students from universities in Canada and overseas. Industrial sponsors can use the resulting products or processes without violating patents, and academics can commercialize their research in a well-funded atmosphere.

Additional information: (780) 441-3800
www.trlabs.ca

netera ALLIANCE

Netera Alliance Inc., formerly WurcNet, is Alberta's advanced internet organization. It is an Alberta-based, pre-competitive, not-for-profit alliance of companies and institutions focusing on the development of advanced Internet networking, high performance computing resources and advanced multimedia resources. Its primary role is as the designer and manager of the next-generation Internet in Alberta, which is connected to the international network of high-speed Internets, linking research, health, and educational organizations. As a member-driven organization, Netera acts as a catalyst for the development of advanced computing and networking by leveraging the resources, skills and services of its members, without preference or partiality to any individual member. Netera supports the development, commercialization and evolution of information technology products and services in advanced multimedia broadband communications, business, health, education, entertainment and government.

Additional information: (403) 220-6778
www.netera.ca

maci

■ *www.maci.ca*

Netera's corresponding regional computing project is MACI (Multimedia Advanced Computational Infrastructure). Its purpose is to establish and maintain a regional advanced communication and computation infrastructure for private sector, university and government researchers that supports the highest quality research in science, engineering and the arts.

Originally initiated by researchers at the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, MACI has since brought in other players, creating a precedent for a broadly based western Canadian venture. It provides an opportunity for the incumbent researchers to work together, share resources, create compatible tools and techniques, integrate research into provincial initiatives, and take part in national and global research projects. They can do this through cutting-edge collaborative technologies such as digital video and audio, virtual reality and multimedia servers. Data acquisition, storage, retrieval, and presentation are all supported by the MACI project.

Alberta SuperNet

■ *www.innovation.gov.ab.ca/supernet*

Under the initiative of Alberta Innovation & Science, every hospital, school, library and government facility in the province will be connected to a high-speed broadband network (greater than 10 Mbs) so that Albertans everywhere - no matter where they live - will have equal access to high-speed Internet. This three year project will make affordable high-speed, broadband Internet access available to virtually all Albertans, providing the foundation for improved services in distance learning, telehealth and e-commerce.

The Alberta Government will be the anchor tenant to deliver e-government services to 420 communities. This $300 million project will be implemented by a consortium of industry players led by Bell Intrigna and includes AXIA Netmedia, Cisco Systems, Microsoft, Nortel Networks, Telsat Canada, 360 Networks and Total Telecom.

THE FOOD PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, through the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, opened the Food Processing Development Centre at Leduc in 1984. It serves to encourage the growth and expansion of this vital industry in highly competitive domestic and global markets.

As an integral part of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's Processing Industry Division, the centre is a modern, fully equipped pilot plant and product development laboratory facility. It is staffed with experienced food scientists, engineers and technologists. The Centre's services are designed to strengthen and expand the capability of Alberta's food processors to meet the challenges of the marketplace through application of new technology and the development of new or improved products and processes.

Major areas of support and services include:

- technical consultation (food scientists; engineers)
- concept analysis and development
- laboratory and pilot plant product development
- prototype design and demonstration
- interim processing and product packaging
- regulatory requirements and labeling assistance
- product packaging
- quality control/quality assurance specifications
- sensory evaluation

Additional information: www.agric.gov.ab.ca/ministry/org/fpdc/index.html

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PARKS

Both Calgary and Edmonton have an outstanding inventory of research parks for advanced technology activities. Tenants of the Edmonton Research Park and the University of Calgary Research Park can participate in cooperative education and training programs and thereby attract top scientific graduates and start-up technology companies.

Calgary Technologies Inc.

Established in 1981, Calgary Technologies Inc., (formerly Calgary Research & Development Authority) is a joint partnership of The City of Calgary, the Calgary Chamber of Commerce and the University of Calgary, working with technology companies and entrepreneurs to develop and expand their operations in Calgary.

The CTI markets the University Research Park, located on 125 acres contiguous to the University of Calgary. The Alastair Ross Technology Centre, a 120,000-square foot multi-tenant research building, provides cost-effective facilities for organizations wishing to take advantage of proximity to the research excellence and facilities of The University of Calgary and the major concentration of research organizations already located in the park. The centre currently houses laboratory facilities and many technology-intensive incubator enterprises, smart offices and prototype development facilities.

CTI offers technology commercialization, technology incubation, technology facilities and technology advocacy in the information communications technology and life/bio-sciences sectors.

For more information: (403) 284-6400
www.calgarytechnologies.com

Economic Development Edmonton

Economic Development Edmonton manages the 320-acre Edmonton Research Park, which was established in 1980 to assist in the diversification of the Edmonton economy through advanced technology. The Park is home to over 35 electronics, software and biotechnology companies. It employs over 1,200 scientists, engineers, technicians and support staff, making it the second largest such park in Canada.

Located within the park is the Edmonton Advanced Technology Centre, a prize winning 43,000-sq. ft. custom-built incubator to support new and early stage advanced technology enterprises. Another multi-tenant facility located within the park available to mid-stage companies that require more specialized work environments, such as laboratories or manufacturing-related services, is the 41,027-sq. ft. Edmonton Research Centre One.

For more information: (780) 424-9191
www.ede.org

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS

The federal government provides the Scientific, Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Tax Credit Program to encourage firms to undertake research and development. The *SR&ED Tax Credit Program* reduces the cost of research and development to the firm.

Under this program, the federal government provides income tax incentives to Canadian businesses that conduct scientific research and experimental development in Canada. The program encourages industry, including small business and start-up firms, to develop technologically advanced products and processes.

Claimants can apply for SR&ED investment tax credits for expenditures such as wages, materials, machinery, equipment, some overhead and SR&ED contracts.

Generally, Canadian-controlled private corporations with less than $200,000 of taxable income can receive a refundable investment tax credit of up to 35% (enriched rate) for qualifying SR&ED expenditures. An enriched refundable claim is subject to a limit of $2 million for qualifying expenditures.

Most other Canadian corporations, proprietorships, partnerships and trusts can receive an investment tax credit of up to 20% for qualifying SR&ED expenditures.

Projects which qualify for SR&ED tax credits include:

- experimental development to achieve technological advancement to create new materials, devices, products, or processes, or improve existing ones;
- applied research to advance scientific knowledge with a specific practical application in view;
- basic research to advance scientific knowledge without a specific practical application in view; and
- supporting work in engineering, design, operations research, mathematical analysis, computer programming, data collection, testing or psychological research - if the work is commensurate with, and directly supports, the eligible basic or applied research or experimental development.

For more information: www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/sred

QUALITY OF LIFE

Alberta offers a unique lifestyle that is recognized for its natural scenic beauty, national parks, diversity of landscapes, and its friendly, safe cities. Alberta has many different cultural communities from Asia, Europe, the Caribbean…etc. This is one reason why every year Albertans participate in an array of colorful and exciting festivals.

NATURE & TOURISM

With its vast forests, pristine lakes, wide open prairies and the magnificent Rocky Mountains, the province of Alberta contains a diversity of natural landscapes that few other places can match. Whether you're into outdoor recreation or learning about the natural environment, our network of recreation and protected areas has what you're looking for - winter, spring, summer or fall.

- Spectacular natural beauty and a clean environment.
- Hundreds of cultural festivals, sporting events, fairs and rodeos.
- Cultural and recreation facilities, including theatres, music halls, and sporting venues.
- Major cities and national parks that are recognized internationally.
- Safe, modern cities and charming small towns and villages.
- Annual attraction of over 4 million visitors from outside Alberta.

Highlighting Alberta's natural parks are those located in the Rocky Mountains. The Rockies are home to four internationally acclaimed natural parks: the national parks of Jasper, Banff and Waterton Lakes, and the provincial park of Kananaskis Country.

Jasper is the largest and most northerly of the four Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks which comprise the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its scenery is rugged, including deeply gouged Maligne Canyon and picturesque Maligne Lake. Maligne Lake is the second-largest glacial lake in the world. The Columbia Icefields, located between Jasper and Banff, is the home of glaciers and waterfalls.

Banff is a world-famous tourist destination. The townsite offers a wide range of amenities surrounded by wilderness: it is not unusual to see elk or even the occasional bear on the streets. Numerous hiking trails are easily accessible, and the highway north to Lake Louise and Jasper is dotted with pull-offs for picnics and photos.

Waterton Lakes is the world's first international peace park located on Alberta's border with the United States. Serving as a symbol of Canada's friendly relationship with the United States, Waterton Lakes offers all the expected activities to be found within a national park.

Kananaskis Country is 4,250 square kilometres (2,550 square miles) of foothills, mountains and streams set aside as a unique multi-use recreation area. Four provincial parks fall within its borders, with three main roads through Kananaskis that offer breathtaking day-trip possibilities. There are no shortages of activities, year round: camping, hiking, boating, fishing, biking, equestrian or snow mobiling. You can also take up the challenge of playing 36 of the most scenic golf holes in the world, at the Kananaskis Country Golf Course.

Both Calgarians and Edmontonians enjoy the beauty of parks and river valleys. The pride of every Edmontonian is the quiet preserve of nature within the North Saskatchewan River valley - the longest expanse of continuous urban parkland in North America. The North Saskatchewan River valley features 27,394 acres of parkland, including 60 kilometres of bicycle paths and 400 kilometres of trails.

Calgary is home of two major natural parks. Fish Creek Provincial Park protects 2,800 acres of natural woodland, including a lake with a beach and many hiking and biking trails. Nose Hill Park, covering over 2,700 acres, offers natural grassland, a spectacular city view and excellent hiking.

Social & Cultural Activities

The arts and culture sector contributes to an exciting quality of life for Alberta's residents, offering superb leisure time, business, education, career development, and life enrichment opportunities. Alberta arts organizations held almost 9,900 events in 1999, in which total attendance was 12 million. Foundation for the Arts has provided employment for about 3,700 Albertans. In 1999, 567 arts and cultural organizations, funded by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, contributed an estimated $ 130 million to the provincial economy. Overall, the foundation supports and contributes to the development of literary, performing, visual and media arts in Alberta, and provides Albertans with opportunities to participate in the arts.

Support for the arts is also a part of Alberta's culture as demonstrated by contributions by tens of thousands of volunteers each year. During 1999, 59,000 Albertan volunteers helped to keep the arts alive and active across the province by contributing time, equivalent to 1,452 full-time jobs.

Both Calgary and Edmonton have world-class cultural facilities that include concert halls and theatres to accommodate their symphony orchestras, ballet companies, Broadway shows, concerts and live theatre.

In 1998-99, the number of visits to provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres totaled 1.05 million.

Edmonton has become widely known as Canada's "Festival City", attracting visitors worldwide. In particular, the summer months hosts events such as Heritage Days (an annual celebration of the province's ethnic diversity), Jazz City International Festival, the famous Klondike Days Extravaganza, the Folk Music Festival, and North America's largest Fringe Festival of live theatre.

There are numerous public and private museums and art galleries throughout Alberta. The city is home to the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta, Strathcona Science Park, and the Edmonton Space & Science Centre (the largest planetarium in Canada and home of an IMAX theatre).

Calgary is home to the world-renowned Calgary Stampede, which draws visitors internationally for its Half Million Dollar Rodeo. In addition, Calgary hosts over 80 other festivals and events each year, ranging from the Winter Festival to the International Children's Festival.

Calgary has a complete and diversified portfolio of eleven museums and galleries. The most prominent of these is the Glenbow Museum with its permanent Indian and Inuit arts and craft displays. Also in Calgary is the Alberta College of Art Gallery, Heritage Park (a 66-acre park highlighting pre-1915 Western Canada), and the Calgary Zoo and Prehistoric Park.

Sports & Fitness

There is no shortage of recreational activity in Alberta. In the winter months Albertans enjoy mountain biking, downhill skiing, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, ice climbing and skating.

During the summer, the province receives 16 to 18 hours of daylight, allowing for some of the best golfing experiences. Of the over 300 golf courses throughout the province, some of the most spectacularly scenic are those in Canmore, Banff and Jasper National Parks, and Kananaskis Country. In fact, the Jasper Park Lodge golf course is often rated Canada's top resort course.

Both Edmonton and Calgary have numerous sport and recreational participation programs. Each city has professional teams in football, hockey and baseball. In addition, Alberta has top-notch sporting facilities as proven by Calgary's hosting of the XVth Olympic Winter Games, and Edmonton's hosting of the Commonwealth Games. Also, the World Championships in Athletics will be held in Edmonton in August 2001.

For additional tourism information, contact Travel Alberta.

TRAVEL Alberta CANADA

www.travelalberta.com

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The province of Alberta is committed to providing its residents with opportunities for education. To this end, it has made available an affordable and diversified system of education with qualified instruction. For instance, in 1998-99 Alberta's average annual tuition for an undergraduate science degree was $3,150.

The Alberta Students Finance Board manages a number of programs to ensure every Albertan has access to education, and that cost is not a barrier.

The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund provides grants to High School students achieving academic excellence to pursue post-secondary education. The scholarship fund currently administers over 40 different scholarships and has a yearly budget in excess of $17 million.
The purpose of Financial Support for Students in Upgrading & Basic Foundation Skills Programs is to help adults develop the skills they need to obtain employment. This includes programs such as:

- Pre-technology training
- University and college entrance preparation (UCEP)
- Academic upgrading (Grades 10 - 12)
- Academic preparation training
- Adult basic education (Grades 7 - 9)
- Literacy and numeracy
- English as a second language (ESL)

The Alberta Opportunities Bursary, a new partnership among post-secondary institutions, the private sector, and government, will help financially needy adult Albertans to further their education. The Alberta Government will contribute up to $15 million annually to match private contributions to the Alberta Opportunities Bursary, made through post-secondary institutions. The intent of the program is to ease the burden of above-normal debt carried by some students while attending full-time studies.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Compared to other major Canadian cities, Calgary and Edmonton are among the safest. The province is policed by two separate systems: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) who are responsible for federal law enforcement, and municipalities' own forces. Both urban and rural areas utilize innovative and cost-effective crime prevention programs. In addition, crime is reduced by the involvement of communities in prevention programs such as Block Watch and Police Community Action Plans.

Major Cities	Violent Crimes	Property Crimes
Regina, SK	1,709	8,536
Vancouver, BC	1,120	7,761
Saskatoon, SK	1,332	6,439
Victoria, BC	1,268	6,577
Thunder Bay, ON	1,525	4,178
Winnipeg, MB	1,232	5,590
Edmonton, AB	869	4,802
London, ON	885	5,260
Ottawa-Hull, ON	732	3,966
Calgary, AB	848	5,036
Québec, QC	465	3,100

* rates are calculated per 100,000 population

Source: Statistics Canada, 2000

Policy & Economic Analysis
4th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 – 102 Street
EDMONTON AB T5J 4L6
Telephone: (780) 427-6787
Fax: (780) 422-0061
Website: www.alberta-canada.com/statpub

© 2001 Alberta Economic Development
ISBN # 0778509761

For copies of this and other related department publications please access on line:

- International Trade Review
- Monthly Economic Review
- Alberta Business Outlook
- Global Economic Outlook
- Alberta's International Exports
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Inventory of Regional Alberta Projects

Printed in Canada